



TESTIMONY FOR SB0787

Managed Care Organizations and Health Insurance Carriers - Prior Authorization for HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis for Victims of Sexual Offenses - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Feldman

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0787 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

There is a frightening need for this legislation. Imagine a child who is raped. The very first thing that the parents want to do as soon as they can think clearly, is to get the child treated for sexually transmitted disease. HIV screening is expensive, as is treatment. If the parents are turned down for the treatment by the insurance company because they do not have prior authorization, and they cannot afford the screening, they are stuck in an untenable position.

We, as a society, should take down as many barriers in that situation as possible.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.